

death of the Treasurer. On motion, Mr. Price was elected to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Fraley reported that he had received and was prepared to turn over to the Treasurer elected, the quarterly interest on the Michaux Legacy, due Oct. 1. 1874.

And the meeting was adjourned.

*Stated Meeting, December 4th, 1874.*

Present, 17 members.

Vice-President, MR. FRALEY, in the chair.

A letter accepting membership was received from Baron Franz von Hauer, dated Nov. 7, 1874.

A letter requesting additional copies of Proceedings and Transactions, was received from the Holland Society of Science, at Harlem, Nov. 3, 1874.

Letters of envoy were received from the Entomological Society, of Belgium, and the State Department, at Washington.

A letter was received from the Baron de la Roncière le Noury, V. A. President of the Geological Society at Paris, with documents, asking for the concurrence of the A. P. S., in the International Congress of Geographical Sciences to be held next spring, in Paris.

Donations for the Library were received from the Editor of Flora Batava, Leyden; the Entomological Society, Belgium; Annales des Mines; Revue Politique; London Nature; Geological Society, and Society of Antiquaries, London; American Chemist; Prof. James Hall, and the Regents of the University of New York; Silliman's Journal, Franklin Institute, Penn Monthly, Mrs. Emma Seiler, of Philadelphia; and Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, of Boston.

The death of John Meredith Read, Ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, Nov. 29, aged 77, was announced by Mr. E. K. Price, who, on motion, was appointed to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased.

Prof. G. Guyot, of Princeton, N. J., Prof. Cook, of New Brunswick, N. J., and Prof. Lesley, were appointed the committee to report on M. Meunier's book, received at the last meeting.

Mr. Britton reported analyses of Rocky Mountain coals, and exhibited the cokes obtained from them.

Dr. Cresson reported on their gas producing and heat producing qualities.

Mr. Goodfellow said that before the next meeting news would be received of a rare event, for which astronomers had been waiting and preparing for a century. Next Tuesday the Transit of Venus would again occur, the times of which as calculated for Washington he gave. So extensive and costly are the preparations for observing this event in distant parts of the world made by various Governments, that it becomes evident the time has arrived when public sentiment is alive to the value, and government action is ready to supply the needs of accurate science, for the benefit of society at large.

Mr. Goodfellow then gave a sketch of the history of the Observation of the Transit of 1769, and showed, from Dr. Smith's memoir in the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, that Dr. Smith's calculations of the sun's parallax, while they widely differ from the results of Encke, approximated much nearer to the truth.

Dr. König explained again by diagrams, the essential points of difference between Mr. Britton's burette, the high value of which he acknowledged, and his own published improvement upon it. Mr. Britton insisted that they were essentially the same. Mr. Fraley said that the decision of such a question must be left to the practice of Chemists.

Dr. W. I. Hoffman's letter to Dr J. L. LeConte on the practice of Cremation by the Páh-Ute Indians, of Eastern California, was then read by the Secretary, and Dr. Horn confirmed Dr. Hoffman's statements, adding that the practice was common to all branches of the Páh-Ute Tribe.

Mrs. Seiler's recently published investigations on the voice in speech were then described by the Secretary, and the

two capital points which the learned authoress considers to be new discoveries were pointed out, namely, the fixed pitch of the consonant, and the duplex instrumentation of the voice; the mouth and the "vocal organs" commonly so-called, being two entirely different and independent instruments acting in harmony, but the mouth being entirely capable of speech after the destruction of the larynx and cords.

Prof. Frazer described by diagrams the phenomenon of exfoliation in the syenite-like rocks of Gettysburg. A discussion ensued in which Dr. König expressed his dissent from Naumann's views respecting the cause of granitic exfoliation being the sun's heat. Dr. Genth also called attention to the fact that southern boulders were evidently not produced in the same way as northern boulders.

The report of the late Treasurer of the Society as made out by his administrator, was read by the Treasurer, Mr. Price, and regularly referred for examination to the Finance Committee.

Pending nomination, No. 764 was read.

On motion of Mr. E. K. Price. it was

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer be directed to pay one half the income received and to be received from the Michaux Legacy, to the Treasurer of the Fairmount Park Commissioners, for the Michaux Grove, &c, agreeably to arrangement of March 18, 1870.

The appointment of a Standing Committee of Botanists on the purchase of trees for the Michaux Grove, in Fairmount Park, was moved by Mr. Price, and laid over by the rules, to the next meeting.

The Curators, on motion, were authorized to permit Mr. Herbert Welsh to copy the portrait of Washington, in possession of the Society, under such regulations for its safety as the Curators may provide.

And the meeting was adjourned.